

# St. Augustine's Catholic Primary School

Headteacher's Report to Governors

July 2012

We're heading towards the end of term now, but we're still very busy! Most of our news is covered in the newsletters but here's a brief summary .....

St. Augustine's Feast Day was celebrated in style with lots of different fun activities taking place from games and artwork to picnics on the field.

Perform4Schools brought the Jubilee and the story of Queen Elizabeth II to life for all the children with drama, dancing and street parties; I'm very grateful to the PTA for funding the two days of celebrations. Shortly after, some of our KS1 children received a letter from the Queen – they had written to her to thank her and wish her well for her Jubilee.

St. Gregory's hosted a Sports Festival for all our KS2 children; their Sports Leaders led a variety of field and track events – discus, javelin, long jump, sprint, long distance running and fun events like tyre racing - and really inspired our children to do their best.

Our girls did us proud at their Tunbridge Wells Football Tournament.

The Tunbridge Wells Olympic Torch arrived from St. Barnabas' School, amid much cheering and flag waving and was duly sent on its way to St. John's on the next step of its town relay with similar fanfare.

One of our Year 5 students won the TWGGS Poetry competition from hundreds of entrants and was duly honoured at a presentation at the school.

We were very impressed when Mr. Corrigan, husband of one of our Teaching Assistants and director of the company building Olympic venues, came in to tell our KS2 children about the development and building of the Olympic Stadium.

Our Year 5/6 Pentathlon team recorded our highest placing in the town event this year, coming a very well-deserved 4<sup>th</sup> out of 18 teams; indeed one of our girls broke the Year 5 javelin record!

Years 2 to 6 are now fitter and more skilful after their Skipping training and even more aware of how to stay healthy and the effects of exercise on their body; it's good to see that lots of the children are using their training in the playground,

If you look at the end of our field, you can see all the animal houses that our Year 4 children built with the aid of a Woodland gardener – trap doors, soil enclosures and a bug hotel – it was great to see the children sawing, nailing and painting outdoors.

We had very lively and entertaining guitar and ukulele recitals recently, some of our children have guitar lessons and all of our Year 5s are taught the ukulele, we were impressed by how much they had learnt and how much they enjoyed playing.

Our Year 6 Enterprise scheme is going very well and the children are showing their entrepreneurial promise, raising money for their end of term festivities by holding cake sales, raffles and selling pet portraits!

The PTA have been very busy and productive refurbishing the KS2 library, organising a disco which the children loved and coordinating a fantastic Summer Fair - the downpour didn't dampen our spirits We owe them our grateful thanks for all they do for our school.

KS1 and KS2 reports have gone to parents (EY to follow shortly) and Staff and Parents met at our very informative and embracing Transition Meeting.

Review of this year's School Improvement .....

To improve spelling and writing ..... Training of Teachers and Teaching Assistants in the teaching of phonics has led to an improvement of knowledge and application (training from external consultant and internally from EY and KS1 Teachers) A substantial financial

investment resulted in purchase of resources – EY and KS1 reading books now match Letters and Sounds programme, our Literacy Leader is ordering teaching resources (eg flash cards, sounds displays) and investigating schemes for use in KS2. Observations of lessons show that phonics is being taught in EY and KS1 systematically and to a high standard, in KS2 it is less consistent but is developing. Professional actors and storytellers and St. Gregory's students stimulated writing – reluctance to write has decreased (the Creative Curriculum has had a big impact, as writing now has a purpose). Assessing and identifying needs (eg dyslexia) has led to improved strategies for learning.

A KCC Consultant advisor has spent several sessions in school advising on assessment, tracking, target setting and on verifying lesson judgements in shared observations

To improve the quality of feedback to learners .... A Feedback Policy is in place which prescribes practice –appropriate oral and written feedback which celebrates success and promotes development. Literacy books are about to be re-scrutinised to look for comments which describe next steps and show children's reactions. Phase and inter-phase moderation of whole school Maths investigation led to robust discussion and more accurate teacher assessment. New marking criteria for writing was introduced, phase and inter-phase moderation of whole school writing task led to a sharing of information/experiences and improved teacher assessment. External moderation of our EY, KS1 and Year 3 assessments was very successful

To match learning to the developmental level of the child through the work of Ferre Laever ..... Ferre Laever screening by Teachers and Teaching Assistants is now taking place over a range of different subjects. Screening information is taken to very productive staff meetings to review strategies used to ensure that children's well being and involvement is improving.

To form strong partnerships between children, staff, parents, governors, parishes and the community .....

Our Fabulous Finishes invited family and friends to attend open afternoons and an evening to celebrate and feedback on Creative Curriculum work. School Council collected ideas for playground redevelopment. Children share prior subject knowledge and identify areas for investigation to further their understanding, skills and knowledge in their new topics. KS1 children plan 'My Time' activities. Enterprise scheme enables Year 6 children to become entrepreneurs. A mosaic cross is produced and displayed outside school as a sign of our Catholicity to the Community. Fr Antony's religious instruction extends, deepens and challenges UKS2 children. We listened to our Children's voice and heard their views on behaviour and safety in school –plans being made to invite in speakers about keeping safe (eg, drug/medicine use, stranger danger). Governors have higher profile in school, join children in activities and celebrations, meet socially with staff, meet and support the PTA.

Planned future developments ....

reinvigorating the TASC wheel approach to stimulate independence in learning, especially in high ability children,  
continue to emphasise the teaching of phonics throughout the school,  
review and improvement of the teaching of mental maths skills (number bonds, tables),  
monitor the implementation and teaching of a 2 year science cycle and moderate the assessment of investigative science, maximise the use of the outdoor environment (woodland trail, pond)

implement the new RE scheme 'Come and See'

ensure depth and progression of skills taught in the Creative Curriculum, promote independence, challenge and children's choice in 'My Time'

Staff – I'm very pleased to tell you that Mrs Phillips, who has been with us as a Teaching Assistant for several years and has now successfully completed her teacher training, has been appointed as a new teacher in Years 3/4; two new and experienced Teaching Assistants have also been appointed, one to work in a KS1 class and the other to assist in classes throughout KS2. We're sad that Mr Wellstead will be leaving at the end of this term, we are very grateful for all his hard work and his companionship and wish him well in his future career. Congratulations to Mrs Elliot, recently married, we wish her good luck in her new life; she is also leaving at the end of term and we thank her for many happy and productive years at the school.

Staff Training since May, 29<sup>th</sup>, 2012 -

1 T - 2 RE courses

3Ts - Maths course

3Ts – ASD training

6TAs – ASD training

2Ts – new strategy for EY

2Ts – implementing the new strategy

HT, DHT – Data handling for Ofsted

DHT – ongoing training with Cluster DHT group

Bursar – Asbestos Management and Water Hygiene

5MDS, 1TA – Playground Games training

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Number of children per year –

Since 29<sup>th</sup> May, 1 child has joined EY (from a local school, sibling was already in our school), 1 child has joined Yr 2 (from out of County)

EY 45, Yr 1 45, Yr 2 45, Yr 3 45, Yr 4 44, Yr 5 43, Yr 6 45 (Total 312/315, July '12)

Attendance - target 4.5%, actual 3.8% up to 6/7/12, attendance continues to be very good

#### Dates

Friday, 13 <sup>th</sup> July	Sports afternoon and family picnic
Monday, 16 <sup>th</sup> July	Alternative Sports afternoon
Monday, 16 <sup>th</sup> July	Curriculum Committee, 6.45pm
Tuesday, 17 <sup>th</sup> July	Inset Torch through TW
Tuesday, 17 <sup>th</sup> July	FGB,
Thursday, 19 <sup>th</sup> July	Yr 6 Leavers' Service
Friday, 20 <sup>th</sup> July	9.30am Mass End of term

This has been an eventful year! Thank you all for your support, friendship and encouragement.

Mrs Mann